

00980

1962/11/02

2116

INCOMING TELEGRAM

Department of State

53-W

Action
ARA

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Control: 856

Re'd: November 2, 1962

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

6:48 P.M.

Info FROM: Buenos Aires

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After exchanges of telegrams initiated by General Alsina, CINC Argentine Air Force, with General LeMay, Argentine Air Force has indicated its desire to participate in Cuba quarantine operation and has offered two SA-16 aircraft now on order in US with crews plus three additional crews to be made immediately available for C-130 transition in US with view toward their use by US Air Force in present Caribbean crisis. Informally, General LeMay has indicated USAF will accept offer as soon as placed in diplomatic channels as outlined Department's circular telegrams 723 and 751. However, Alsina has indicated to USAIRA his desire that request for Argentine assistance come from US via diplomatic channel rather than that it be offered by Argentina to US in diplomatic channel.

INR

RMR

In view of Muniz's very positive attitude on keeping offers of aid in his own hands and in light of message received by Chief USAF Mission Argentina of which Department has been informed, I brought up this matter informally this afternoon with Muniz. He said he had been kept informed of air force messages through Air Secretary Pereira. He also very much wanted to place matter in diplomatic channel but said problem was that since Argentine Navy had been requested by US Navy to participate in quarantine and had acceded to that request, so Argentine Air Force wanted to appear as having been asked by USAF for assistance to which it would gladly agree. In other words, said Muniz, "What we have is another case of inter-service rivalry". However, main point is to get ahead

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-2- 1243, November 2, 7 p.m. from Buenos Aires

swiftly with Argentine air participation. He thought easiest way out would be for US, through diplomatic channel, to inquire if Argentina might be able to lend some air support to Cuba quarantine operation. Once I had placed such a note in his hands he would immediately reply affirmatively and outline nature of Argentine Air Force participation identical to that already offered to USAF by Argentine Air Force CINC.

In consequence, request immediately instructions authorizing me to make inquiry as outlined above in expectation of an immediate affirmative reply.

MCCLINTOCK

RAS

NOTE: Mr. Bloomfield (ARA) notified 910 PM 11-2-CWO-W

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